

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7167

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY HONG KONG

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 1951

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, MX, OVIP

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA

1. MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA ARRIVED BRUSSELS APRIL 6 FOR FOUR- DAY VISIT. CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS HAVE INCLUDED OFFICIAL LUNCHEON, DINNER GIVEN BY KING BAUDOUIN, RETURN DINNER BY ECHEVERRIA, RECEPTION FOR MEXICAN COMMUNITY, AND TOUR OF PROVINCES. SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS HELD WITH PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE APRIL 6 AND WITH EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI APRIL 7. ECHEVERRIA SCHEDULED TO MEET EC COMMISSIONERS AND GIVE PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 9.

2. IN SPEECH AT DINNER APRIL 6, ACCORDING TO PRESS, KING WARMLY WELCOMED PRESIDENT AND REFERRED TO OWN VISIT TO MEXICO IN 1965. HE PRAISED ECHEVERRIA FOR GIVING DYNAMIC LEADERSHIP TO DEVELOPMENT OF HIS COUNTRY AND FOR ESCHEWING ISOLATIONISM IN FAVOR OF SEEKING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. KING ALSO RECALLED THAT BELGIAN DELEGATION AT CNUCED SESSION IN UNCLASSIFIED

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SANTIAGO LAST YEAR HAD SUPPORTED MEXICAN PROPOSAL FOR CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT OBJECTIVE OF SUCH CHARTER COULD BE ACHIEVED BUT NOTED THAT CHARTER' S PREPARATION IS PROJECT REQUIRING MUCH TIME AND LABOR.

3. IN REPLY ECHEVERRIA DESCRIBED HIS VISIT AS HAVING DOUBLE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING TIES WITH BELGIUM AND AFFIRMING MEXICO' S POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, WHICH HE VIEWED AS SIMILAR IN ESSENCE OT THOSE OF GOB. HE PRAISED BELGIUM FOR UNDERSTANDING THAT SMALL STATES CAN CONSERVE AUTONOMY ONLY IN FRAMEWORK OF MULTINATIONAL COMMUNITIES. NOTING THAT ECONOMIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN BELGIUM AND MEXICO ARE NOT EXTENSIVE, ECHEVERRIA SAID IT IS IN MUTUAL INTEREST OF TWO COUNTRIES TO DEFINE NEW CONTEXT AND SPECIFIC DOMAINS OF COOPERATION. WITH REFERENCE TO " SUBTLE FORMS OF OPPRESSION" LEFT IN WAKE OF COLONIALISM, ECHEVERRIA DECLARED THAT GAP BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES IS WIDENED BY EXPANSIONIST POLICIES OF CERTAIN STATES AND TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES, AND BY LACK OF NORMS EQUITABLY REGULATING FOREIGN INVESTMENT, TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AND COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES. FOR THESE REASONS, PRESIDENT SAID, MEXICO SEEKING CHARTER ON ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES, WHICH MUST BE OBLIGATORY CODE RATHER THAN MERE DECLARATION. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DEFINITIVE TEXT WOULD BE ADOPTED BY NEXT UNGA AND APPEALED FOR ENTHUSIASTIC BELGIAN SUPPORT FOR STRONG CHARTER.

4. IN ONLY OTHER REPORT SO FAR ON SUBSTANTIVE REMARKS DURING VISIT, PRESS STATES THAT IN MEETING WITH ORTOLI, ECHEVERRIA OUTLINED MEXICO' S INTEREST IN INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION WITH EC.

5. BELGIAN PRESS GIVING CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO VISIT, INCLUDING SERIES OF GENERAL ARTICLES ON MEXICO ON TWO LARGE DAILIES. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT ON OCCASION OF VISIT ECHEVERRIA HAS AMNESTIED JOSEPH LOIR, BELGIAN SENTENCED TO 30- YEAR PRISON TERM IN 1960 FOR MUDER OF MEXICAN CUSTOMS OFFICIAL.

STRAUSZ- HUPE

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LONDON
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SECSTATE WASHDC

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